SPORTS
Ellington: I re-signed with Heat because I never wanted to leave Miami 13A

WEEKEND
Third Horizon film festival features documentaries from Caribbean 7G

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Miami Herald

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SENATE HEARING

SUPREME COURT SHOWDOWN

With a nation watching, emotional nominee, accuser square off in front of Senate committee

MICHAEL REYNOLDS AP

The accuser, Dr. Christine Blasey Ford.

ANDREW HARNIK AP

The Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh.

BY SHERYL GAY STOLBERG AND NICHOLAS FANDOS
New York Times

WASHINGTON

Judge Brett Kavanaugh and Dr. Christine Blasey Ford faced off Thursday in an extraordinary, emotional day of testimony that ricocheted from a woman's tremulous account of sexual assault to a man's angry, outraged denial, all of which played out for hours before a riveted nation and a riven Senate.

The two very different versions of incidents in 1982, unfolding in the heated atmosphere of gender divides, #MeToo and the Trump presidency, could not be reconciled. The testimony skittered from cringeworthy sexual details to accusations and denials of drunken debauchery to one juvenile exchange over flatulence.

Washington has not seen anything like it in a generation. For people not used to watching government in action, it was a spectacle of tantrums, tears, preening and political ambition — what Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, called, "Sadly one of the most shameful chapters in the history of the United States Senate."

Senators must ultimately take sides — and their decisions in the coming days will determine the ideological balance of the Supreme Court for decades.

Immediately after the eight-hour hearing adjourned, President Donald Trump tweeted that "Judge Kavanaugh showed America exactly why I nominated him."

"His testimony was powerful, honest, and riveting," the president wrote. "Democrats' search and destroy strategy is disgraceful and this process has been a total sham and effort to delay, obstruct, and resist. The Senate must vote!"

With her voice cracking but her composure intact, the accuser, Ford, told a rapt Senate panel about the terror she felt on a summer day more than 30 years ago, when, she said, a drunken young Kavanaugh pinned her to

SEE COURT, 2A

MIAMI

Ultra Fest Bayfront contract for 2019 rejected by Miami

Miami commissioners unanimously voted down a contract to keep Ultra Music Festival in Bayfront Park, the city's downtown site of the festival for years.

BY JOEY FLECHAS
jflechas@miamiherald.com

In a surprise move, the Miami City Commission on Thursday unanimously voted down a contract for Ultra Music Festival to stay in Bayfront Park.

Caught in the fray of a political grudge match between two commissioners and mixed public opinion, Ultra Music Festival's future in downtown Miami was dealt a significant setback when commissioners rejected the contract. Downtown residents who oppose the festival left City Hall smiling and high-fiving each other as festival organizers quietly conferred outside the commission chambers.

The vote could mean that Ultra won't return to the park in 2019, which would be the first time in 18 years that Ultra is not on Miami's waterfront. But festival organizers said afterward that they hope to salvage a concert at Bayfront Park for March.

A contract could come back later if an agreement could be worked out, an option that seems unlikely to an organized group of residents who were elated with the vote.

"Is there a world where we could work something out that we could live with? I don't see it today," said Kenneth Schwartz, who wore a

SEE ULTRA, 8A

MIAMI-DADE

County approves new 836 expressway to Kendall

Miami-Dade commissioners approved a 13-mile 836 extension into West Kendall, a $1 billion project aimed at reducing traffic congestion. Environmentalists say it endangers the Everglades and drinking water supplies.

BY DOUGLAS HANKS AND JENNY STALETOVICH
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Miami-Dade commissioners on Thursday approved a new 13-mile expressway into Kendall, citing traffic congestion in the suburbs and rejecting warnings from environmentalists that allowing the road to cross the county's western development boundary would bring sprawl that endangers water supplies and the Everglades.

The proposed $1 billion "Kendall Parkway" would go through undeveloped farms and wetlands to connect the existing State Road 836 expressway to South Dade, crossing the county's Urban Development Boundary, which was designed to separate intense residential and commercial development from the Everglades.

The 9-4 vote was a loss for the "Hold the Line" coalition of environmental groups that fight western development and a victory for West Kendall residents who have urged Miami-Dade to provide relief from

SEE 836, 2A

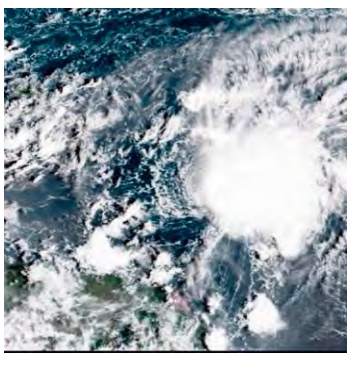
PATRICK FARRELL pfarrell@miamiherald.com

Garrett Rowe, left, and Lourdes Gomez of the planning department chat with Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez, right, and the mayor's senior adviser and communications director, Myriam Marquez.

LOCAL NEWS

BEACH TAX RATE HOLDING STEADY

Miami Beach commissioners vote not to raise the city's property tax rate but will increase certain fees. **3A**



AMERICAS

KIRK DRENCHES THE CARIBBEAN

Tropical Storm Kirk dumps plenty of rain on Caribbean islands but is expected to weaken as it moves west. **7A**

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